(b) A senior officer of Government of Bihar and an officer from Transport Department, Government of Bihar have claimed to have deciphered the ancient Harappan script. The study is based on assigning certain phonetic value to the sacred religious symbols used by Santhal tribes in their rituals which according to two officers look into Harappan letters. However, the readings are not coherent in all cases. Therefore, it is difficult to accept the decipherment as final.

National Mission for Universalisation of Elementary Education

2490. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch a national mission for universalisation of elementary education by 2000 A.D. under the revised education policy ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard ; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the views of the State Governments and by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) The revised Education Policy calls for launching of a National Mission for achievement of the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education before we enter the twenty first century. This revision in the policy has been done in consultation with the State Governments in the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Educati on (CABE). It is also proposed to discuss launching of such a Mission in the next meeting of the CABE scheduled for August 8, 1992.

Illiteracy in Bihar

2491. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Bihar has the maximum illiterate persons in comparison to other States ;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any special plan to eradicate illiteracy from the State;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(d) whether Government have also provided any special financial grants to the State for eradicating illiteracy ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) whether Government are satisfied with the actions taken by the Government of Bihar in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Even though the literacy rate in the State of Bihar is the lowest in the country, the State does not have the largest number of illiterates (covering all age groups) in comparison to other States.

(b) and (c) Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy ot 80.00 million adult illiterates in the 15—35 group by 1995 forms an integral part of a larger pro gramme